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FEMA

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
NEODESHA SUBSTATION PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
NEODESHA, WILSON COUNTY, KANSAS
FEMA-1711-DR-KS

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the construction of a substation and related facilities. The original power plant was substantially damaged by the storms and flooding between June 30 and July 2, 2007. Due to the high cost associated with restoring and elevating the facility out of the 100-year floodplain, the city of Neodesha has decided to apply to FEMA to use the eligible funds for an alternate project. FEMA was authorized under a Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-1711-DR-KS) to provide Federal disaster assistance to city of Neodesha in Wilson County, Kansas as a result of damages incurred during the incident period beginning on June 30 and July 2, 2007 (Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121-5206, as amended (Stafford Act, Public Law 93-288)).

A new 138kV switching station would be constructed in the existing Westar 138 kV transmission line right-of-way. A 3.2 mile 138 kV transmission line would be constructed from the switching station to West Granby Business Park. The transmission line would be located from the switching station beginning on the north side of CR 300 for approximately 1.4 miles. At the intersection of CR 300/US 400 the transmission line would turn north-east and continue along the west side of US 400 for approximately 1.2 miles. At the intersection of U.S. 400/ Granby Street it would turn west and continue along the south side of Granby Street for approximately 0.6 mile to West Granby Business Park. The transmission line would replace the existing 60kV Westar distribution line. It would consist of 75/H1 poles spaced approximately 300 feet apart connecting fiber optic shield wire. A new 138 kV to 13.2 kV industrial substation would be constructed within the West Granby Business Park. The construction of the new facilities would consist of site preparation (grading and/or excavation) and construction of the switching station and substation. The existing utility poles would be removed and replaced with new H1 poles.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a DEA has been prepared to evaluate the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. The DEA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action. The DEA is available for review between April 16, 2009 to May 15, 2009 at the Neodesha Rankin Library located at 502 Indiana Street, Neodesha, Kansas. The DEA can also be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/index.shtm>. Written comments on the DEA can be faxed to FEMA's Regional Office in Kansas City, Missouri at (816) 283-7018. Comments should be received no later than 5:00pm on May 15, 2009. If no substantive comments are received, the DEA will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice. The DEA will then be moved to the archives page at http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/archives_index.shtm.